

**Valentine: Including drug companies in Consumer Protection Act. (HB4046)**

- Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of this panel.
- Thank you to the victims of dangerous drugs for coming here today and speaking to the people of Michigan about your tragedies and about the importance of repealing Michigan's unfair law.
- Your voice is important because this fight is about protecting people.
- You have important stories to tell and the citizens of Michigan must hear from each and every one of you.
- You will not be silenced, even in the face of attacks by the drug companies and their ally, the Michigan Chamber of Commerce.
- The people of Michigan see right through their distortions and smear tactics.
- This isn't just another committee hearing.
- It is essentially a fight to give every citizen across Michigan, from my community in Muskegon to the Soo in the U.P. to metro Detroit to Jackson County, a voice against out-of-control corporate greed.
- Mr. Chairman, thank you for letting me address my bill, House Bill 4046, which amends Public Act 331 – the Consumer Protection Act – of 1976.
- Under my bill, drug companies will explicitly be covered under the Consumer Protection Act for the first time.
- Under my bill, citizens can file their own claims against drug companies that misrepresent the safety and efficacy of drugs, and it would allow the Attorney General to act on behalf of the citizens of this state.
- Once upon a time, Michigan led the nation in consumer protection.
- In 1962, Michigan became the first state in the nation to have a state-level consumer protection act.

- This act protected people from unfair business practices and prohibited misrepresentations.
- Sadly, while Michigan was once the first in our nation to have a consumer protection act, we're now the only one in the nation to have a drug-industry protection act – at devastating cost to consumers.
- While Michigan once protected families from unfair business practices, our law now protects big drug companies to engage in unfair business practices.
- Where Michigan once prohibited misrepresentation, our citizens are now powerless in the face of drug industry misrepresentation.
- Mr. Chairman, you and I still remember those days when Michigan led the nation in consumer protection.
- Michigan's laws were once called the "cornerstone" of consumer protection.
- Mr. Chairman, unless we specifically cover dangerous drugs, our consumer protection laws are not cornerstones.
- They are empty facades with dangerous gaps.
- Mr. Chairman, as public servants, we are duty-bound to do everything in our power to protect consumers from all threats, including dangerous drugs like Vioxx, Bextra, Rezulin and others.
- We must ensure that everyone plays by the same rules – no exceptions!
- By amending Public Act 331 and including drug companies in Michigan's Consumer Protection Act of 1976, we will level the playing field and ensure our citizens can hold drug companies accountable – just like everyone else.
- I urge you, members of this panel, to pass our proposals and help us protect all consumers in Michigan.
- Thank you.